



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

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District Wins Valley Forward Association's Environmental Excellence Award

PHOENIX (Oct. 1, 2012) – Valley Forward Association awarded the Flood Control District of Maricopa County with an Award of Merit for its Tall Pot Tree Program in the category of Environmental Technologies – Public Sector. The District received the accolade at Valley Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards event in Scottsdale on Sept. 29.

The District utilizes "tall pot" tree technology in its re-vegetation efforts during the construction of flood control channels and basins. The program conserves water resources, promotes environmental sustainability, maintains fiscal responsibility, and protects the natural habitat character and beauty of the natural Sonoran Desert landscape.

Tall pot trees are desert-adapted velvet mesquite, ironwood and palo verde varieties grown in 6-inch-diameter, 30-inch-tall PVC tubes in the District's own 8,500-tree nursery. The tall tubes encourage the development of a long tap root which boosts the tree's survivability when planted in harsh environments. Trees are planted on site using a power auger to drill narrow holes to accommodate the width and depth of the tree roots. Once the tree is in the ground, a slow-release hydrated gel called DriWater® is added to the soil around the plant to deliver up to 30 days of moisture with each application. Natural rainwater provides the rest of the necessary moisture.

This environmentally sustainable tree planting process saves up to \$20,000 per acre when compared to planting a typical large boxed tree that requires the installation of an irrigation system and/or use of a water truck.

Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 10,000 trees have been installed at 16 flood control structure project sites around Maricopa County.

The District received recognition out of more than 120 entries in the Environmental Excellence Awards competition. Two Awards of Merit and one first-place Crescordia award were presented in each award category.

Valley Forward Association is an organization of civic leaders in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Since 1969, the group has been devoted promoting the balance of economic development and environmental quality in the Phoenix region. The prestigious Environmental Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding contributions to the physical environment.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is tasked to provide regional flood hazard identification, regulation, remediation, and education to Maricopa County residents so that they can reduce their risk of injury, death, and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

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